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STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER...
THREE OAKS CELEBRATES FLAG DAY 2025

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PHOTO OF THE MID-AMERICA COWGIRLS RODEO DRILL TEAM RIDING DOWN ELM STREET BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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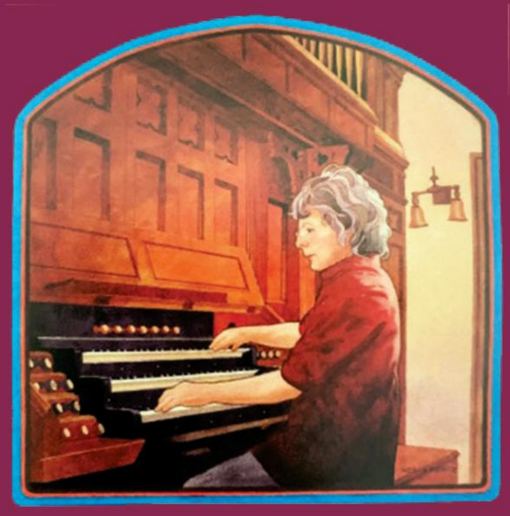

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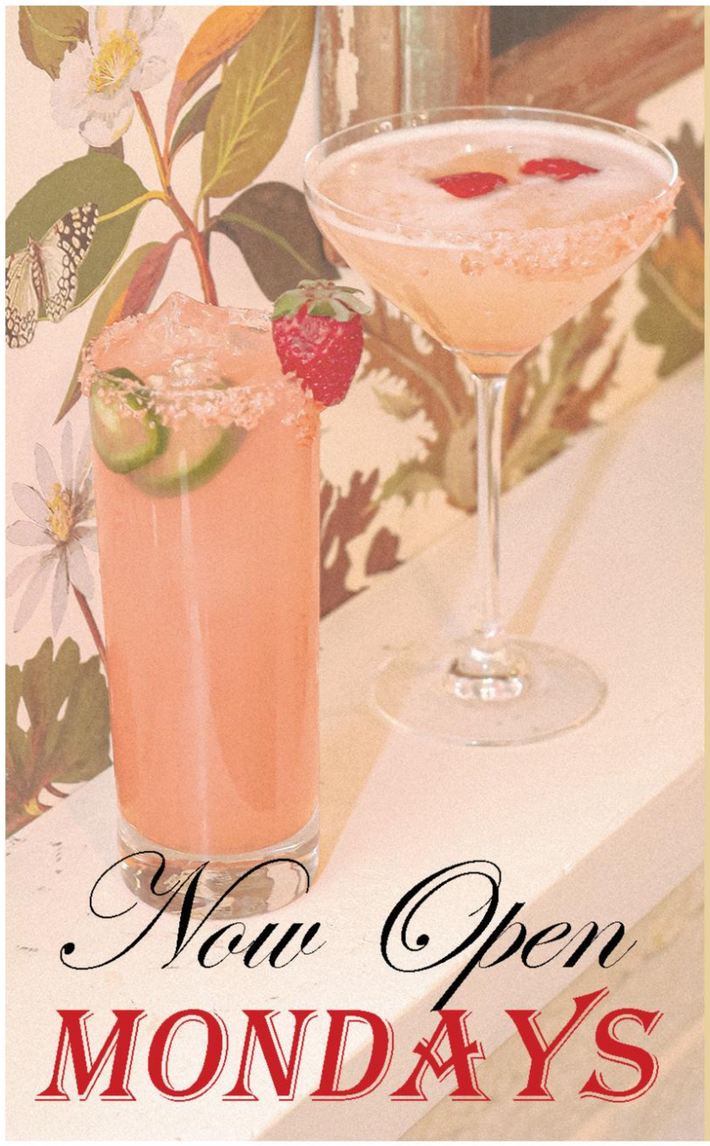

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circa: 2021

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National U.S. postage stamp unveiling held in Three Oaks

BY STAN MADDUX

Three Oaks followed Mt. Rushmore in 2024 as host of the annual national unveiling of the new United States Postal Service flag stamp.

The patriotic unveiling Saturday, June 7, outside Vickers Theatre at 6 N. Elm Street was part of the pre-Flag Day weekend festivities, a long tradition in the community highlighted by the Sunday downtown Flag Day parade billed as the largest in the nation.

Flag Day is a national holiday celebrated every June 14.

Elizabeth Majduch, a spokesman for the USPS Corporate branch in Detroit, said the postal service chooses a different location for the unveiling of the new flag stamp each year.

Majduch said the unveiling every Flag Day was moved up this year, though, to be part of the weekend long celebration of the holiday in Three Oaks.

"Three Oaks was on our radar because they're so patriotic here," she said.

An estimated 10,000 people attend the annual parade in the village of about 1,400 residents.

Village Councilman Jason Niemzyk said it was quite a tribute for the national spotlight of the flag stamp unveiling to shine on Three Oaks given the deeply rooted support in the community for the nation and its veterans.

He pointed out the community is pretty quiet except during Flag Day weekend, when "we get a little rowdy."

"We are a village with a tremendous amount of patriotism where neighbors look out for each other and we're honoring the country as part of who we are," he said.

It was only fitting, perhaps, that Three Oaks followed Mt. Rushmore for the unveiling and it to happen during the 250th year of existence for the postal service and three branches of the U.S. military established prior to the official birth of the country.

Majduch said stamps marking the postal service anniversary will come out in July.

Benjamin Franklin, one of the signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence giving birth to the country on July 4, 1776, was the first U.S. postmaster.

Commemorative stamps featuring the logos of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps. were unveiled on May 19 at Freedom Plaza in Washington D.C.

"We're patriotic just like all of you," a spirited Don Dombrow, Jr., the featured speaker for the unveiling ceremony, told the crowd of nearly 200 people.

Dombrow, the USPS Manager in Michigan for District 2 serving nearly two million delivery points, is a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Persian Gulf War in the early 1990s.

He called the flag stamp, which debuted in 1869, "an enduring symbol of freedom, national unity and patriotism."

"I'm proud to say the postal service shares those same values with you," he said.

A new flag stamp each year has a different design.

This year's version features the words "United States of America" in blue lettering below the flag and "Forever USA" in gray lettering at the very bottom.

This year's stamp was designed by renowned artist Antonio Alcala from a picture of an American flag taken by Doug Haight, a professional photographer from Evanston, Illinois, who grew up in nearby St. Joseph, Michigan.

Haight said he and Alcala, a childhood friend of his wife, Liz, were sitting on the lawn of their shared vacation home several years ago in Wisconsin with a flag flying on a pole in the yard.

He said Alcala, who has designed over 100 postage stamps with different images, asked if he had any good pictures of the flag.

Haight said he later took a few hundred pictures of the flag outside the vacation home and one of few dozen finalists he submitted was chosen by Alcala for the design.

"This is really cool for me in so many ways," he said.

The flag stamp unveiling also included a presentation of the colors by the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 and singing of the national anthem.

It's our wants and desires that enslave us.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Berrien County Health Department provides safe food handling tips for summer gatherings

As many community members prepare for summer cookouts, the Berrien County Health Department is providing safe food handling tips and highlighting its work to ensure food establishments follow proper procedures.

"The Berrien County Health Department works year-round to educate community members about best practices for safe food handling," said Nick Margaritis, BCHD's environmental health manager. "This summer, our goal is to help the community enjoy the season safely, without the risk of foodborne illnesses at picnics and other gatherings."

BCHD is sharing the following safe food handling tips for summer gatherings:

- Wash your hands often with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Clean all surfaces where food will be prepared or consumed with hot, soapy water.
- Clean your cooking utensils after each use with warm, soapy water, especially after handling raw meat, seafood and eggs.
- Keep food cold and under 41 degrees until it's ready to be cooked or consumed. Bacteria grow rapidly between the temperatures of 41 and 135 degrees. Pack food in coolers with plenty of ice to maintain a temperature of below 41 degrees.
- Store beverages separately from food to maintain a cool temperature. Beverage coolers are opened more frequently, letting hot air in.

The following safe food handling tips are related to meat and seafood:

- Cook all meat and seafood at the recommended minimum temperature listed at foodsafety.gov and use a meat thermometer while cooking.
- Store meat and seafood in a cooler no more than two hours before cooking to prevent bacterial growth.
- Pack raw meat and seafood separately from prepared food to avoid contamination.

BCHD inspects all licensed food service establishments at a frequency as required by law and works closely with new establishments before they are licensed to operate to ensure compliance with health codes. It also investigates all reported cases of foodborne illnesses.

Community members are encouraged to report any concerns about foodborne illnesses to BCHD by visiting www.km5ih or calling 269-927-5623.

Learn more about BCHD's food inspections and other services offered by its Environmental Health team at berriencounty.org/753/Environmental-Health. — STAFF REPORTS

Fire drives couple from home

Over a dozen baby chicks perished in a fire that heavily damaged a house Tuesday in northern La Porte County.

About 8 a.m., firefighters were called to a two story home in the area of 900 North and 700 East according to La Porte County Police.

Owner Harold Slabaugh said he believes the fire was linked to a heat lamp keeping the baby chicks warm inside his shed.

He said flames from the shed caught the nearby outside wall of the house on fire before spreading into the roof.

Slabaugh believes the house where he and his wife, Margaret, have lived since 2003 is beyond repair but he'll wait for his insurance company to make the final determination.

"It's burnt. Everything smells burnt. It's no good. I think everything is a total loss," he said.

Slaubaugh said he was at work at New York Blower in La Porte while his wife was home with a grandchild when she discovered smoke and quickly vacated the residence.

He purchased the chicks recently because they were on sale for $1 apiece at Rural King in La Porte.

Slabaugh said he was planning to let them run around on his property once they were grown.

"I have chickens all of the time," he said. — STAN MADDUX

As a writer, you should not judge, you should understand.
— Ernest Hemingway

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Most of us were never taught that our early lifestyle habits are what set you up for your future sickness or wellness. It is what you eat, drink, watch, think, listen to, read, dwell on, and do every day in and day out that nourishes or depletes your cells in your body. We cannot depend solely on our genes to pull us through. Genetics loads the gun… but diet and lifestyle pull the trigger.

The Western medical culture has made us believe that we can eat all the processed chemically laden food that we desire, get chronically sick, then they can "fix" us with pills or surgeries. If something starts hurting, you can get a pill for pain. If an organ is congested or clogged, a pill for this too. If something stops functioning correctly, it can be cut out of you so it doesn't bother you anymore. If we gain too much weight, our stomach can be cut, or we can take pills or shots. If something wears out, it can be replaced and you can get a new one.

Sadly, ALL of these come with serious side effects. We need to learn to treat the cause, not the symptom. Live every day in ways that will make healthier tomorrows.

The story you are fed is that you can live any way you want, you can eat whatever you want, you can sit around for as long as you want, then when your body gives out (and it's not IF your body gives out, it is just a matter of WHEN) then a pill or surgery that will fix you. The medical model has taken away our instincts, intuitions and power. We each have our own responsibility to our health. It is in daily choices that we make.

If you have a fortune in the bank, fancy cars and a mansion, none of it is worth anything if you are sick and unable to enjoy any of it.

THERE IS NO BETTER WEALTH THAN HEALTH

We need Doctors, hospitals and drugs. We are tremendously blessed to have emergency medicine in our country, and there are times it is necessary for drugs and surgeries. I am talking about the lack of nutritional education when we go to our regular checkups. We are only given a few minutes with a doctor, and usually prescribed a medicine without being informed of self-care. It is not the Doctors fault; it is our system. Insurance does not allow Doctors to discuss something that does not bring a profit, or takes them an hour to help educate you.

Nature offers herbs and foods that work far better than laboratory drugs and they don't have serious side effects that can kill you. Knowledge is power. Learn the Laws of Nature, Ditch the processed foods that are addicting. Learn about a whole food plant-based diet that heals and repairs your body. Watch health documentaries. Walking in nature is free. Unplug. Be mindful and responsible for your own health so you don't wear out.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

Late judge helping kids pay for college honored

BY STAN MADDUX

A bridge in La Porte County will be named after a history making judge still helping kids go to college more than 30 years since her death.

In 1990, Susan Hemminger became the first female judge in La Porte County.

Before cancer took her life less than three years later at age 34, she used her assets to create a foundation for providing annual scholarships of up to $5,000 apiece for La Porte County students.

La Porte County Deputy Prosecutor Atley Price, who helped get the scholarship fund started, said an average of eight to 12 scholarships are awarded by the foundation annually.

"We're now rapidly approaching two million dollars in benefits for scholarships," he said.

The La Porte County Commissioners on June 4 voted in favor of his request to name the bridge on E. Michigan Boulevard over Trail Creek after the late judge.

The naming of the bridge is under a program started several years ago to honor distinguished residents of La Porte County from the past.

One of the former residents, late Oakland A's owner Charlie Finley, has a bridge on Johnson Road near the farm he used to live at outside La Porte with his name on it.

A slice of deliciously proud cake from Black Currant Bakehouse in Union Pier

SCHOLASTICS

School board approves ESL Language Assistance Program

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved an ESL Language Assistance Program at their Monday, June 9, meeting.

Matt Bayley, ESL coordinator, said that every Michigan school district must have a language assistance plan approved by the school board that "outlines everything they do to support their English language learning students, from the moment of identification until after they've exited the program."

When students are initially identified, they're given a WIDA screener, which has four parts: listening, speaking, reading and writing. A student who gets less than a 5 on the scale of 1-6 on any of the parts is considered an English language learner while a composite score of 4.8 when a student tests out is considered "good enough."

At New Buffalo Elementary School, the focus is on the students at Level 1, who have just arrived and have a "lot less English," and Level 2. Individual students get 20-90 minutes of pull-out language support per week. The school uses SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) methods, and Bayley said the school district is considered a SIOP one regarding some of the supports it offers, as well as ongoing class testing and accommodations.

At New Buffalo Elementary School, the focus is on the students at Level 1, who have just arrived and have a "lot less English," and Level 2. Individual students get 20-90 minutes of pull-out language support per week. The school uses SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) methods, and Bayley said the school district is considered a SIOP one regarding some of the supports it offers, as well as ongoing class testing and accommodations.

Once a student hits Level 3, they receive 15-30 minutes of pull-out language support per week and ongoing class testing and accommodations.

In middle/high school, beginning this year, Bayley taught a full year, 70-minute ESL class. High school students also received two or more trimesters of English Essentials using Book Nook experience and a bilingual paraprofessional provided push-in support in the classroom, which helped students access the material.

Students continue to do ISOP methods and receive class testing and accommodations. When high school students reach Level 3, the ISOP methods and class and testing aren't "typically being put in an ongoing ESL class."

"We're improving all the time, and I think it's a good starting point to say, 'Yes, this is what we're going to begin with and we're going to build from there,'" Bayley said of the plan.

Bayley said that this past year, there were approximately seven ESL students in elementary school, eight in middle school and, just before graduation, approximately 14 in high school. For seven months, there were students from Afghanistan who came late in the school year and left before it was over.

Board members heard an update on the BASE (Bison Afterschool Enrichment) program from director Madeline Selby.

This year, BASE had a mission and vision statement.

The program focused more on field trips and bringing in more community members "in different ways," as Selby said that students participated in a volunteer collaboration with the high school's Clay Club, Harbor Country Hikers and visited New Buffalo Township Library for a puppeteer workshop.

A take-out window allowed parents to sign their children out, which increased the students' safety as well as face to face interaction with parents and staff.

The Kindness Club encouraged New Buffalo students to donate almost a busload of items to Michiana Humane Society, with students delivering everything to the animal shelter.

Other activities included an egg hunt as well as a Fun Run, which parents and their guardians could participate in, and a volleyball enrichment, which gave students the chance to participate in a noncompetitive sport.

Goals for next year include hosting at least one BASE-hosted event each trimester and sending out another survey to elicit feedback from students and parents.

Last year, Selby said BASE averaged 35 students a day. This year, that number grew to 60, with the highest day being 112.

Board members approved a food service contract with the Head Start Program.

Food service director Susan Martinic said that the year-long program will begin Sept. 3 and end May 28 and will not provide lunch on half days or emergency days.

Meals will be provided according to the CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program), with Head Start holding the CACFP license. The high school will pack breakfasts and snacks, which will be picked up once a week, and the elementary school will cook and package lunch, which will be picked up daily at 10:45 a.m.

The district will also let them borrow a milk cooler to keep milk cold and open some refrigerator space for fresh products.

Board members approved hiring Danika Piotrowski for the position of Summer School administrator as well as a list of summer schoolteachers.

Board members approved Keystone Cooperative supplying fuel products and Scholl Dairy supplying milk products for 2025-2026.

Board members approved proposals for the following: Fence Masters for the transportation gate upgrade, Hein Electric Inc. for elementary parking lot lights, J. Allen & Company for the elementary parking repaving, Workman Concrete Inc for the Transportation Concrete Pad.

Board members approved a quote for new landscaping on the east side of the middle/high school building.

Board members also approved the Teacher Contract Wage Scale for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, which Bowen said equates to a 3 percent increase and allows them to get their step increases.

Board members approved the 2025 merit pay for staff. New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the extra compensation will be a "nice reward" for the support staff going "above and beyond" in everything that they do.

NEW SUMMER
DAILY HAPPY HOUR
3-5PM

BITES

$1 OYSTERS
Limit one dozen per person.
Valid with purchase of a beverage.

$10 SHRIMP & DIP TRIO
Shrimp with 3 Dipping Sauces:
Bang Bang Sauce, Cilantro Lime Crema, and Cocktail Sauce

½ PRICE FLAT BREADS
Classic Margarita, Mediterranean, Sausage & Giardiniera

SIPS

$8 SPRITZ O'CLOCK
Limoncello, Aperol Spritz, or Hugo Spritz

$16 SLUSHES & SANGRIA FLIGHT
Includes one white, one red, and two seasonal frozen beverages.

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School of American Music to host 'Campfire Singalong'

The School of American Music invites the public to a nostalgic evening of music and community spirit at a Campfire Sing-Along at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17.

The event will be held outdoors at the campfire circle at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, located at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, Michigan.

This free community event, produced by Pat Putnam, promises an old-fashioned, feel-good sing-along led by the Harbor Country Singers, a community choir and outreach program of the School of American Music. Attendees of all ages are invited to join in singing beloved classics such as "This Land is Your Land," "Oh Shenandoah," "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," and "Down by the Riverside." Additional favorites will round out the evening's musical selections.

School of American Music instructor, Tom Fischer, and Harbor Country Singers member, Lance Olson, will provide guitar accompaniment. Harbor Country Singers members Melissa Smith, Diane Ruzevich, Pat Putnam and Donna Mitchell will be song leaders.

Songbooks with lyrics and music will be provided. Seating will be available on campfire logs, or attendees may bring their own chairs or blankets for comfort. In the event of rain, the sing-along will move indoors.

While admission is free, guests are encouraged to bring a donation of nonperishable food items for Neighbor by Neighbor, a local nonprofit that connects vulnerable residents of southwest Berrien County with vital services. Most needed items include pull-tab cans of soups, stews, tuna, ravioli, spaghetti, or other easily heated foods.

The Harbor Country Singers is a project of the School of American Music, made possible through generous support from The Pokagon Fund, community donors, and the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, which graciously provides the venue. — STAFF REPORTS

Gazzolo Productions presents Arabian Nights, an immersive cinematic experience at The Vickers Theatre

In October 2023, Livia Gazzolo partnered with The Vickers Theatre in Three Oaks, MI to create the first Silent Film Show, featuring Gazzolo on vocals and Reynaldo Certain on guitar performing Brazilian Tropicalia in front of Jean Cocteau's Blood of a Poet (1932).

Since then, Gazzolo has produced and performed in a series of shows with different concepts combining silent films from the early 1900's with wildly varied musical accompaniments from improvisational jazz to traditional Kurdish folk music, memorable rock and roll hits and Brazilian Tropicalia (to mention a few).

Gazzolo believes that the juxtaposition of live performance with silent film can bring into relief historical patterns still relevant, while highlighting the ingenuity born of a time that was pure analogue.

She uses ethnomusicology as a lens to explore the connection between cultures through music while experimenting with how mood and tone (beyond language) can bring a new dimension to the story unfurling on film.

Now expanding into immersive set design, live puppetry and animation, Gazzolo Productions aims to immerse audiences in a timeless space that triggers all senses and casts a spell of enchantment, of curiosity, of wonder.

This June, Gazzolo Productions is bringing The Arabian Nights silent film performance to a theatre near you! A night of live music, storytelling, and cultural immersion – set in a Kurdish tea house – on Friday, June 20, 2025 at The Vickers Theatre in Three Oak, MI.

The performance features a series of silent films set to an original score by Livia Gazzolo and Ben Kinsinger, blending original works with Kurdish, Persian, Turkish, and Arabic folk music.

Audiences will be transported by a sequence of silent short films inspired by The Arabian Nights, including Aladdin and His Magical Lamp (directed by Albert Capellani) and Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves (directed by Ferdinand Zecca), accompanied by Gazzolo and her band including: Livia Gazzolo – vocals; Pat Leary – piano; Jeff Wheaton – bass; Ben Kinsinger – piano, guitar, accordion; Eric Novak – reeds; Marwan Kamel – oud, percussion; Steven Rutlidge – drums

The evening opens with a live jazz set as guests take tea, baklava, and appetizers provided by Café Gulistan, with a

backdrop of traditional rugs and textiles evoking a Kurdish teahouse, followed by the first screening of Gazzolo's music video, Porcelain Doll, scenes of which were filmed on The Vickers' stage in the summer of 2024.

This event marks the official launch of Gazzolo Productions LLC, a company devoted to creating immersive musical performances animated by silent films exercising both historical and cultural preservation.

During the event, Gazzolo will announce The Land of Roses Artist Residency, aimed at bringing together artists of all ages to collaborate on original, culturally-inspired performances for Gazzolo Productions.

Gazzolo and Gazzolo Productions partnered with Dr. Sherry Wang and T.C.T. (Transcultural Cymatics Theatre) to create The Sound of Silence, a project which brought the silent film performance concept to the Grandview Art Festival in Guangzhou, China (November 2024)

In a beautiful review of this performance, director Hu of the Grandview Museum wrote, "For hundreds of years, the "meaning" of music has been like a fog that has swirled in the hearts of aesthetes, musicians, and philosophers, leaving them intoxicated and confused. I once thought that "music without borders" was just a beautiful vision, but tonight, "The Sound of Silence," a world-class live music feast, has truly built an emotional bridge between Chinese tourists and exotic artists."

Now, Gazzolo Productions invites sponsors and others to join in supporting its growing vision for international cultural exchange and youth arts education.

What: Immersive Silent Film Performance + Live Jazz, Tea & Middle Eastern Fare

When: Friday, June 20, 2025

Where: The Vickers Theatre, Three Oaks, MI

Tickets: $20 – Available online and at the door

— STAFF REPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

My day was filled with errands, chores, naps, and a host of other things that you do when you have a Sunday that allows you to just relax.

The only way the day could have been more relaxing would have been to turn on the television and watch a baseball game, like I did for the first half century of my life. Unfortunately, we can't do that in Chicago anymore and when I think about it, there are two main reasons for this. The first reason is greed, and the second reason is a basic lack of intelligence.

Let's take a look at my reasoning.

Let's start with the Blackhawks. Then owner Bill Wirtz wouldn't allow games to be broadcast on tv because he thought ticket sales would suffer.

His son Rocky took over from his dad after he passed and reversed the policy, and unbelievably the Blackhawks were rewarded with increased attendance, interest, profit, and success. So what did they do a couple of seasons ago?

They joined the White Sox and Bulls in another ill advised plan to squeeze more money from their fans by having them pay to watch their games. The timing was almost comical as all of these teams were terrible.

The networks weren't even interested in the project, to say nothing of the fans. So what has happened to the teams involved? The Blackhawks are terrible, the Bulls are mediocre, and the White Sox had the worst record in baseball's history.

Maybe it was nice of the owners because many of the loyal fans of these teams didn't have to witness their ineptitude.

My favorite team, the Chicago Cubs, have fallen into the same trap.

They became nationally loved at least partly because they were on WGN television for decades. Then they hired Theo Epstein, won a World Series, and started the Marquee Network. The Cubs played the Tigers this weekend, the Tigers won two out of three, but I only saw highlights on the news.

I've watched the Cubs for free for decades, but I currently only listen on the radio or follow along on line. They still have my heart, but I've decided, at least for now, that they aren't getting any more of my money.

Finally, let's try to figure out why the Chicago Bears and the NFL continue to show their games on tv for free. Professional football has replaced baseball as the National pastime.

As the sports popularity increased, the leaders allowed more and more events to be televised. This led to more and more youngsters to see and get to know the game, and it's players. As the other sports attempted to fleece the adults out of a few extra bucks, they were diminishing an entire generation of potential fans.

Other sports, like soccer and pickle ball, are gaining momentum so the greedy and dumb individuals that run some of the current major sports better wake up, and soon.

Mwai Kibaki said, "Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

I want to be one of the best point guards to ever play. — *Shai Gilgeous-Alexander*

SPORTS

Former Bison on surprise ride to stardom in college sport

BY STAN MADDUX

A New Buffalo High School graduate was just an ordinary athlete with no expectations of playing any sport in college, but any dreams he might have now of competing in the Olympics could seem legitimate.

John Riley, who just completed his first year at the University of Michigan, is considered one of the best collegiate athletes in the nation at rowing.

The Three Oaks native was named to the American Collegiate Rowing Association's first team all freshmen first squad.

Riley said he felt he had a chance but was still a bit surprised when first notified of his selection by a text message from a friend.

He was later congratulated by his coach.

"I was just really, really happy about that," he said.

His sudden climb up the athletic ladder is even more stunning, perhaps, because Riley had never been in a rowboat when his roommate with a brother on the team encouraged him to try out.

He was impressive enough for the coaches to find a spot for him on the eight-man 60-foot Wolverines freshman rowboat.

"They saw a lot of potential in me," he said.

His freshman team defeating the likes of UCLA and Purdue during the fall and spring regular seasons recently placed third in the ACRA Nationals in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Riley said rowing competitively and the work involved to be successful is physically grueling, but he likes the challenge of pushing himself to the limits.

He also enjoys he and his teammates in unison "pushing through the pain" toward the finish line.

"There's something, I think, inherently beautiful about that," he said.

Riley played soccer in each of his four years at New Buffalo High School and was a member of the track team for two seasons.

He also played baseball for one year.

Riley said not once did he ever imagine being in any sport in college let alone having such early success.

For now, Riley said he wants to see how far the sport takes him over the next couple of years before deciding whether the Olympics is something he wants to set as a goal.

"It's a thought in the back of my mind. It's a little unlikely but it's not completely out of the picture," he said.

Riley is majoring in Kinesiology, with an eye on a career somewhere in the medical field.

Three Oaks celebrates Flag Day 2025

Tradition abounded in downtown Three Oaks during the 73rd annual Flag Day Parade Sunday, June 8.

Billed as "World's Largest Flag Day Parade," the over 100-unit parade draws locals and visitors to Elm Street.

This year's parade kicked off with the traditional Harley Davidson Road King Police Motorcycles from the Berrien County Sheriff's Office Motorcycle Unit. Other units were the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 Color Guard; the parade's grand marshal, John Kramer, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1969 as an Electronic Technician (ET2). co-founded Spring Creek Masonry and has served on the Three Oaks Village Council since 1986; the Miss/Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley Royal Court and other local royalty; the Mid-American Cowgirls Rodeo Team; area law enforcement agencies and the usual endless stream of tractors and antique cars.

The Michigan City Soul Steppers Drill Team puts on a show

Miss Blossomtime Ava Starbuck and Mr. Blossomtime Ross Bettich wave to the crowd

Kids interact with one of the many parade participants

Grand Marshall John Kramer rides down Elm Street

Pet Parade winner Lily enjoys the parade

Members of the Three Oaks Village Council ride in the parade

Members of the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 make a gun salute

An endless stream of tractors closes the parade

The Berrien County Shriners ride motorcycles in the parade

Valentina and Keary Hall in their patriotic ensembles

The River Valley 8U Softball and T-Ball team rides in the parade

Sam the Wheeler stuns during the parade

The Lest We Forget vehicle makes its way down Elm Street

The Michiana Clowns entertain during the parade

American flags abounded during the annual parade

The La Porte County EZ Riders Drill Team is represented in the parade

The Three Oaks and River Valley Royal Court is represented in the parade

The Miss New Buffalo 2025 Royal Court ride atop their Baton Rouge, Louisianna-themed float

An endless stream of cars drives down Elm Street

Flag Day Princess and Prince Lily Jaspering and Creek Boersma throw candy to the crowd

The River Valley High School Band marches down Elm Street

Music drifted through the air from The Acorn's float

Sunset Coast Country Dancers show off some steps

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OBITUARIES

Carol Lee Conway
1935-2025

Carol Lee Conway, 90, of Niles, Michigan, died peacefully in her sleep Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

She was born Jzanuary 15, 1935, in St. Anthony's Hospital in Michigan City, Indiana. Her parents Wilbur Elton and Ruth (Martin) Warren took her home to Three Oaks where she enjoyed a happy childhood. She had two younger siblings, Ruth Ann (Warren) Zabel and Bruce Elton Warren. Carol graduated from Three Oaks High School in 1953. She then worked at Bendix in South Bend where her father also worked.

In 1954, Carol married Bendix co-worker Robert Lee Grayson. They had four children – Linda, Mike, Scott, and Rebecca. Carol, Robert, and Linda – who was their only child at the time – lived in Germany for two years and England for three years beginning in 1965. They returned home to Three Oaks in 1970 with the two boys, Mike and Scott, having been born into the family. They soon moved to Niles, Michigan, where both Carol and her husband worked for Niles Community Schools.

In 1984, Carol married John Robert "Bob" Conway. They celebrated their fortieth anniversary in December 2024. She worked in the Niles' special education program for several years in the late 1970's and into the 1980's where she touched many lives. Having earned her degree in childhood development, in 1986, she became the first director of the Daycare Center at Northside School in Niles. After a few years in that role, she became the librarian at Oak Manor School in Niles, where she served until her retirement in 2014. Her library was always beautifully decorated with seasonal themes, and she hosted many book fairs, helped with the Run for Reading program and directed the computer lab.

Carol was a gifted writer, musician, and lover of the arts. She and her second husband, Bob, enjoyed taking vacations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Pennsylvania, New York, New England, Canada, Washington DC, North Carolina, Virgina, and other places – visiting museums, attending concerts, and generally enjoying life.

Carol was a generous person with a beautiful soul, helping people in need without hesitation.

She will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband Bob; daughters, Linda, Rebecca; son, Scott; sister Ruth Ann Zabel; many grandchildren; and several great grandchildren.

The family will observe a private remembrance at this time.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

Timothy Edwin Rowlison
1965-2025

Timothy Edwin Rowlison, 59, of Three Oaks, went to be with the Lord, Saturday, June 7, 2025, in the presence of his family.

His life began August 21, 1965 in South Haven, the youngest of two children born to John and Ruth-Ann. He married Janice Ferrell December 29, 1990 in Niles.

Tim had a strong faith and love for the Bible. He worked at CTS for thirty years where he was committed and passionate about his career, and surrounded by friends and family. Tim was dedicated in everything he did; from achieving his black belt in Taekwondo, playing guitar, and spending time with his family. He had a love for music, especially 1968-1978 classic rock. We will deeply miss our rockstar.

Tim will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of 34 years Janice of Three Oaks; two daughters, Jacqueline Rowlison of Coloma, Heather Rowlison of Three Oaks; one son-in-law Dan Alden of Coloma; his mother, Ruth-Ann Nutting of Bridgeport, West Virginia; two step-sisters, Jessi (James) Heron of Niles, Mary (Danny) Balos of Niles; one step-brother, Bill (Kristy) Nutting of Bangor; two special cats, Josie and Kit-Kat; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father; His sister Rebecca Rowlison; his mother-in-law Violet B. Waller; and brother-in-law, Robert Ferrell.

Family and friends will gather Friday, June 13, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Wagner Family Funerals. 106 East Ash Street, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128. A funeral service will be held Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Real Life Community Church. 12 Michigan Street East, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Tim will be laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Tim be made to Real Life Community Church. 12 Michigan Street East, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

The Horizon is a Doorway

Research shows that looking at wide, open spaces can reduce stress and quiet an overthinking mind.

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A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

My new digs.

I didn't have much time to mourn Sandy Fries. Lori walked to me standing by the two Care Bears editors' desks and said, "Come with me." As we walked past staff writers writing and staff artists drawing, I looked to the second floor walkway. Andy, Jean and Kevin were by the railing. I think I saw Andy smile. Then they turned and walked away.

Lori opened a door and as we walked into a windowless but comfortable office, she said, "Your new office." There was a weathered oak desk, a brown leather executive chair, a couple of office chairs, tan metal file cabinets, the requisite phone, a Rolodex, plenty of pens, yellow legal notepads and, taking my breath away, a huge computer monitor and keyboard perched atop the desk, wires running to a tower hidden below.

"Thank you, Lori."

She answered, "You earned it."

I ran my fingertips over the Rolodex and looked to Lori. "Writers?"

She nodded. "You've got two weeks to get Care Bears back on schedule."

I said, "Done." She nodded, knowing it will be. I sat in my chair and added, "I've got work to do."

My benefactor grinned. "Indeed you do."

As she was leaving, I asked, "Can I have the conference room at noon tomorrow?"

She said, "I'll book it for you." Then she left.

I looked at the Rolodex, picked up the phone and called the first writer. It was going to be a long day, an even longer one looming tomorrow.

I learned early in life that when you're in a crisis you have to act decisively. With Care Bears being two weeks behind schedule, I had to act... and decisively.

I spent the rest of my first day as story editor placing calls to writers. If their line was busy, as was often the case in those before-voicemail days, I'd call again in 10 of 15 minutes, and again and again until I reached them.

Sometimes I would get an answering machine, which I intensely disliked. I far preferred the phone to keep ringing if no one was available, and then try again later. That, I figured, was a lot better than leaving a message, and being at the mercy of someone to call back.

When I got a writer on the phone I told them I'm the new story editor for Care Bears and there was going to be a writers' meeting in the DIC conference room at noon tomorrow. Most said they'd be there. Two or three saidthey weren't sure if they could make it.

One said he has an appointment at noon. I told him to break it. I told the others who weren't "sure they could make it" that I was sure if they didn't attend the meeting they wouldn't be working on Care Bears...or any other series DIC had in the works.

As the day neared its end, I was confident I'd have a fine turnout for my first writers' meeting. I packed up, planning to head to the library.

Funny how things don't always work out like you think they will...

HOROSCOPE

JUNE 12-18, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There is a strong desire to break free from restraints of any kind. You feel the need to do your own thing. You want to say those things you have been holding back. There is also a strong need to stand apart from others. Deep down you are yearning for attention and you want something different.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Keep those goals at the front of your mind. You are in touch with your inner self and are well aware of what you need and want. Mental stimulation and beautiful surroundings are important now. Stay in a state of gratitude and you will see that things have evened out and opportunity has opened up.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You are in for a week of fresh starts. So go ahead and turn over a new leaf, start a new project, and implement any changes you have been contemplating lately. By acting on opportunity and speaking your mind and not internalizing intuitive feelings you will get quick results.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

A strong sense of being cared for and that there is someone who understands your needs is coming your way this week. You have the opportunity to connect with someone who shares in your world view. You have a firm view of who you are but are open to others now. A connection is made.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Plans and programs are back in action. Travel, new experiences, and adventure are on the agenda. Your career sector is highlighted now also. Projects will be completed on time and you can expect positive feedback from peers and higher ups. Your talents will be noted and well received.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Something you thought lost or taken will be returned. This could be a personal item, relationship or even peace of mind. This return will bring a tremendous sense of satisfaction. Physical action is still on hold and there will be a sense of being in a waiting period. Don't worry it will pass.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

It will become obvious now where the major changes have been made in your life. You have been keeping your nose to the grind stone and have not noticed how far you have come and how much you have changed. There will be a renewing or restarting of past projects and a reconnection.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

You will become keenly aware of a past pattern resurfacing in a current relationship. You have opportunity now to get to the bottom of it. There is a good chance to break free from this cycle and move forward once and for all. You have been holding onto some heavy emotions. Release!

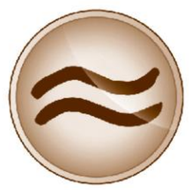
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

This summer is going to be a creative one for you and this week will bring a preview of future events. Tune into your creative artistic side and let some of those inner feelings out. You have much to share and this is a good time to push past any limitations that have creeped in lately.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There is a reopening of past ideas and goals. Pressures are easing off and you can expect a lucky break this week. What looked like a lost cause will rise up again. You will be able to keep a positive mental outlook and will get chores accomplished in record time. Keep moving forward.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Crossing hairs, mixed messages, and communication problems actually are a blessing for you. A Suprise in in store for you. Expect an unusual love opportunity to present itself this week. You need to change things up and keep it fresh anyway. So, this unusual pairing will be quite satisfying.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Things seem out of reach and a long way off this week but your lucky break is actually here. You have made some subtle changes over the past couple of weeks that are having a profound impact now. Others may not adjust so well but it is your life and you're in control of your experiences.

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time. — *Mark Twain*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

			1				9	
	2			6				
				8			1	
	6		7		8	2		
8	7		4		1			
	5							
5					6			9
	8	2			9	5		4
			2			7		

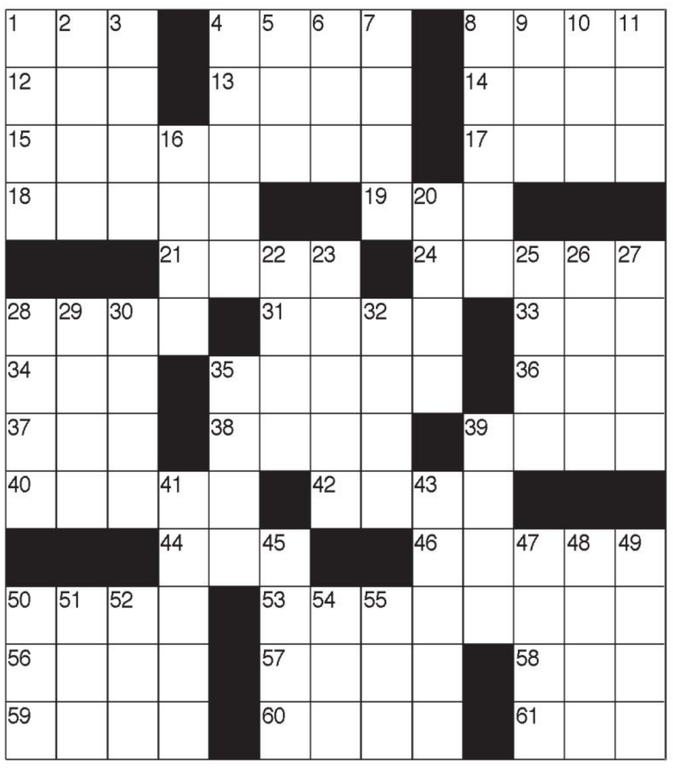
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Queen of the fairies
4 Salt
8 Semitic deity
12 Tumor (suf.)
13 Father: Hebrew
14 Discharge
15 Deter (2 words)
17 Ointment
18 Bay window
19 Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
21 Band
24 Dancer/choreographer
28 Chin. character (longevity)
31 Argyll island
33 Brief life story
34 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
35 Average
36 Gelderland city
37 Adjective-forming (suf.)
38 Spiders' nests
39 Same (Lat.)
40 Horse
42 Irish exclamation
44 Group of whales
46 Land of Croesus
50 Luminary
53 Aloeswood
56 Sample tape
57 Leaf division
58 Oriental tea
59 Irish writing
60 Deserve
61 Cry

DOWN

1 Honey-eater bird
2 Cupid
3 E. Indies island
4 Ancient stringed instrument
5 Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)
6 Television channel
7 Body of water
8 Pew
9 Church vessel
10 State
11 Limited (abbr.)
16 S.A. rodent
20 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)
22 Unless, in law
23 Cheese
25 Sleeping
26 Journey
27 Verse
28 Ancient Egypt. city
29 Old-style verb
30 Us dam
32 Freshwater worm
35 Erase
39 Pastoral poem
41 Computer chip
43 Amer. patriot
45 Ravine
47 Physicians, for short
48 Ginkgo tree
49 Melville's captain
50 Carriage
51 Two-year-old sheep
52 Amer. Medical Assn. (abbr.)
54 Port. colony in India
55 Abridged (abbr.)



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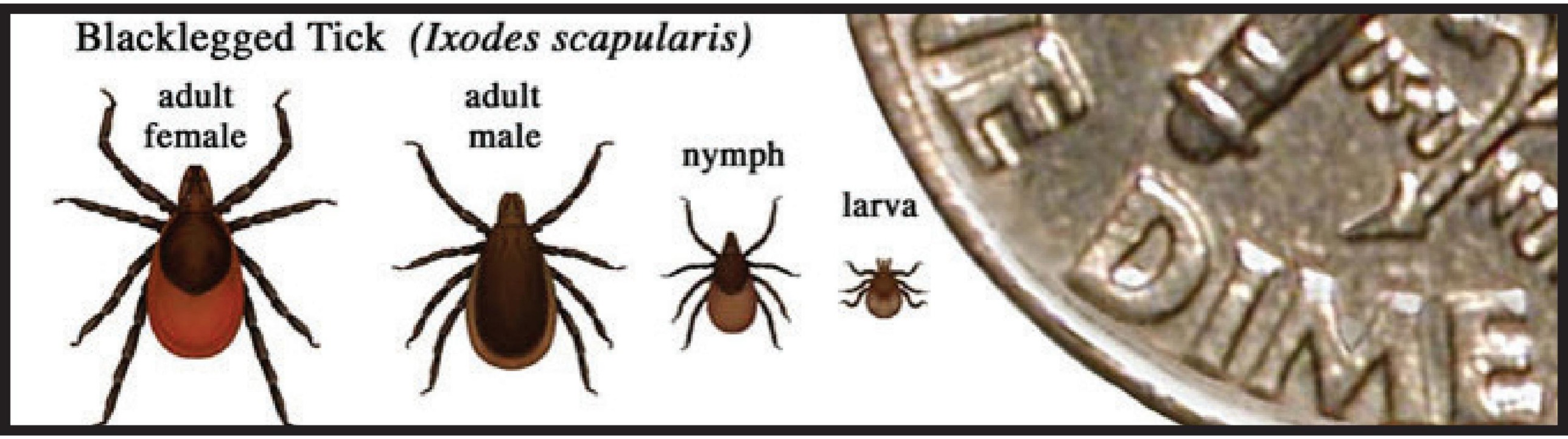

A Day in the Life

LOOKING FOR A DRIVER...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

Looking for a driver was not an everyday request for me. It should be pointed out that I used a wheel chair. The thing is I don't have any particular place I wanted to go to, I just wanted to drive with no place in mind. When you're married to a wheel chair you don't care, just get me out of here for a while! That's enough to scare any driver I figured so I added a destination. I thought for a few minutes and came up with nothing that didn't sound weird, even to me. Who else would ask to go to the Amish country? It's better than saying my other thought which was to ask to be taken to a cemetery. That's really weird. But there was a purpose for the request. Years ago when I first moved to Harbor Country I was in a cemetery and came across a peculiar head stone that had recently been placed. It was an unusual headstone and quite large, three or four feet long and maybe three feet high. What was unusual was the inscribed image; a motorcycle! Clearly the deceased had been in a motor cycle accident. How old was he? I didn't look long enough. What was his name? I didn't read it, or even see it I don't think. What happened in those seconds was that I was struck with grief and cried without a thought for the possible scene I was making with my driver. Fortunately he wasn't looking, or so I hoped.

The question is: Why was I so moved by this stone and the person it was marking? I think I assumed it was a young man who had perished in a motorcycle accident, unnecessarily no doubt, but tragically for someone so young. I don't even know how old he was, but, again, I assumed he was young. On second thought I didn't know how old he was. Maybe he was a father and was leaving young children behind? I didn't know any of this, yet I was weeping like they were my next of kin. I wandered back to the car, only the car wasn't there. I was walking and bawling at the same time for no good reason I thought, except I was moved by that tomb stone for some odd reason. I finally found the car and wiped my face now reddened from all of my crying. I mopped it off and decided that I was nuts. Why would I be so moved by a tombstone for someone I didn't know anything about. Not his age, not his family, nothing that I could conjure for why I got so disturbed.

I think I finally figured it out, I think. I imagined that it was a sudden, tragic death leaving his loved ones in shock and bereavement. For whatever reason I felt like I was taking the family's place! We drove away slowly and I tried to resume seeing the stone again. what had moved me so much, I think was the large motorcycle engraved on the stone. It had to have been recently placed because it could not have been created for several weeks after the funeral. I don't recall seeing the accident written up in the paper. This has since been gripping my mind. I think I'll choose another spot for my next drive. Amish Country might be refreshing. I think I won't take anymore drives. But I found myself saying a prayer that night for the mystery motorcycle rider. I've been by there several times since and the motor cycle stone I can never find.

PET OF THE WEEK

TINA FEY

Tina Fey is purely perfect, and is quite the little lady for an adult. She is about two-years-old, spayed, and vaccinations are up-to-date. Tina Fey loves to be petted, and her big eyes are just as cute as her personality. Make Tina Fey part of your family today.

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3	9	7	5	8	4	6	1	2
4	6	9	7	5	8	2	3	1
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5	3	4	8	7	6	1	2	9
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M	A	B	■	N	A	C	L	■	B	A	A	L
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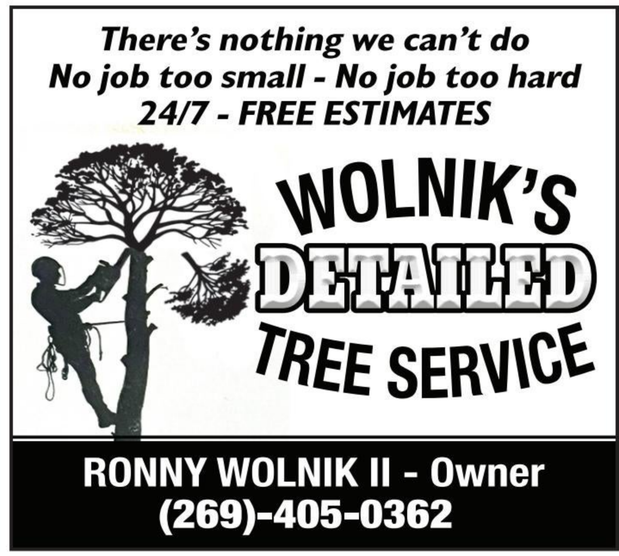

Longtime New Buffalo business owners debut 'B'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Those who are in search of a casual, but classy, outfit to sport this summer should look no further than B in downtown New Buffalo.

Owners Lisa Gawron and Jessica Voss had a soft opening for B at the beginning of May, Gawron said.

The store is located between their other two stores, The Kids Stop and The Hidden Gem New Buffalo, in the former location of Twisted.

The Hidden Gem opened in 2015, and The Kids Stop opened in 2022. Before The Kids Stop, Gawron said, she and Voss, who are cousins, decided to utilize the space in the back of The Hidden Gem by selling toys there. That went so well, they opened a full-fledged children's toy store.

After the toys moved out, they decided to try selling clothes back there.

"The clothes went so well in the back room that, when we decided to close Twisted, we're like, 'Why don't we move all the clothes over to their own space?'" Gawron said.

All the women's clothing moved to the space that's now B. Meanwhile, the unisex T-shirts and pajama wear lines, as well as thrift clothes from Shannon Bowen, who has been with the pair since The Hidden Gem opened, remain in the back room.

Gawron describes the clothes sold at B as being "beachy comfort casual at an affordable price."

"We wanted it to be simple - if you forgot something for the weekend, you could run in and possibly find it in here or we could send you to the other clothing stores we know have it," she said.

Customers will find "cute little dresses," shorts, pants and rompers – items that can be worn if you're taking a stroll around town or going out to dinner. Brands that the store carries are Elsie and Zoey and coco + carmen. Gawron said they also work with DM Merchandising and sell Allthreads and Jack & Missy.

There's also jewelry, such as stackable bracelets and earrings. Brands include Soul Stacks and Joy Susan. Other accessories include hats, Joy Susan bags and purse wristlets that come in "so many different colors."

In the back are some cooler weather items, such as cardigans, shawls and ponchos, which Gawron said will be more prominent once fall arrives.

In addition to their three stores in New Buffalo, Gawron and Voss opened The Ladyfish on State Street in St. Joseph, Michigan, last spring.

Gawron said she and Voss' family have been coming to New Buffalo since 1989.

"We love all the other business owners, we love the community we have here and we're really happy to be here in the mix of everything," she said.

B is open seven days a week and, beginning June 13, will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Jessica Voss and Lisa Gawron in their new store, B

Racks of beachy, casual clothing fill the store

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